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FEAR MAGAZINE

THE TOMB OF
DRACULA
LORD OF VAMPIRES!

CROSS OF FIRE...

...CROSS OF FEAR!



Five hundred years ago he was killed...but he did not die. Today, Quincy Harker, Frank Drake, Rachel Van Helsing, and Blade, the Vampire Slayer—stalk him...as this unliving Lord of Vampires spreads his reign of terror across a twentieth century world.

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

TOMB OF DRACULA!™

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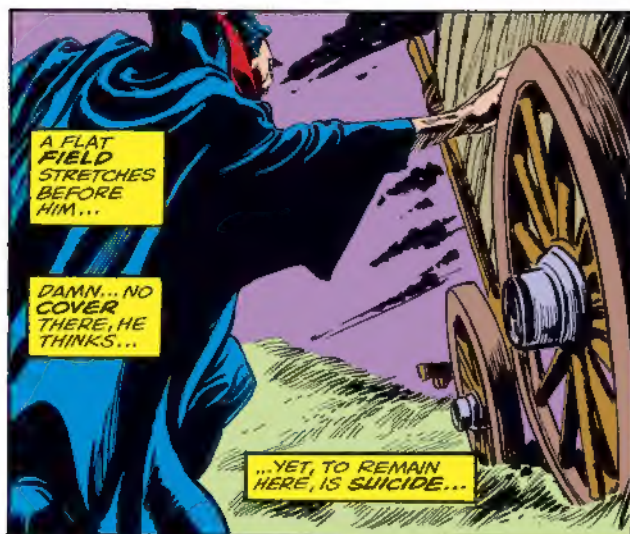


HE SKIRTS THROUGH THE FARM, HIS HEARTBEAT POUNDING LIKE A JACKHAMMER. ARE THEY HERE? HE WONDERS. HIS FLURROWED BROW IS SWEATY WITH FEAR.

SILENCE EVERYWHERE... NOT EVEN THE DRONE OF CRICKETS. THEY MUST BE CLOSE, HE KNOWS. TOO DAMN CLOSE.

HE BREAKS AND RUNS, DIVES BEHIND A WOODEN WAGON FILLED WITH HAY, HIS CHEST HEAVES IN PAIN.

HE IS DRACULA, ONCE MORE A VAMPIRE... BUT HE IS SCARED FOR PERHAPS THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFETIME...



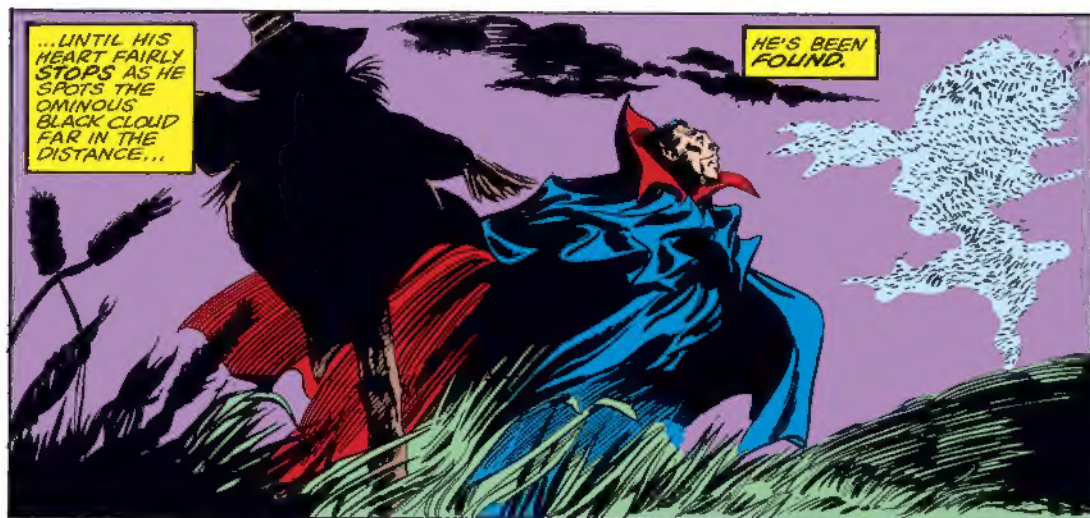
A FLAT
FIELD
STRETCHES
BEFORE
HIM...

DAMN... NO
COVER
THERE, HE
THINKS...

...YET, TO REMAIN
HERE, IS SUICIDE...

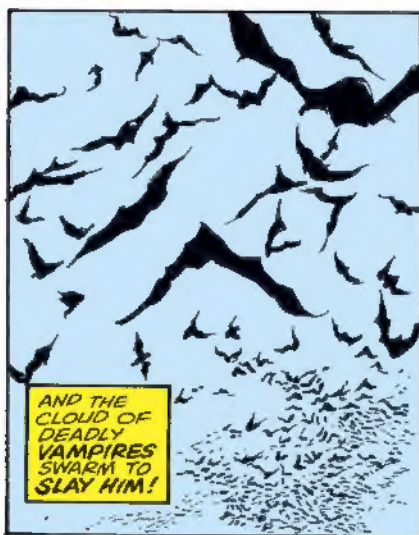


HIS THROAT PARCHED WITH FEAR, HE
RUNS...



...UNTIL HIS
HEART FAIRLY
STOPS AS HE
SPOTS THE
OMINOUS
BLACK CLOUD
FAR IN THE
DISTANCE...

HE'S BEEN
FOUND.



AND THE
CLOUD OF
DEADLY
VAMPIRES
SWARM TO
SLAY HIM!

RAZOR-SHARP TALONS
CLAW AND RIP AT HIS
FLESH.



HISSING DEMONS OF
DEATH CURSE HIS VERY
EXISTENCE.



DRACULA FALLS TO THE COLD,
WET EARTH, WHICH CAKES ABOUT
HIS SWEATY FINGERTIPS.

THEN HE FORCES HIMSELF UP AND PUSHES THROUGH THE RABBLE HE ONCE COMMANDED AND HAVE NOW TURNED AGAINST HIM.

THE AIR IS THICK WITH FOG, IT SLOWS HIS FRANTIC PACE...

...ENOUGH FOR THEM TO ATTACK A SECOND TIME!

BUT WHERE, DAMN IT-- WHERE?

HE MUST ESCAPE... SOMEHOW, HE MUST FIND SANCTUARY...

DESPERATE, THE FORMER VAMPIRE-LORD SPREADS HIS CLOAK WIDE AND HIS FLESH TURNS TO THE EVENING MIST. HIS HEAVY ENGLISH COAT BECOMES INTANGIBLE IN THE NIGHT.

AND THEN, HE VANISHES FROM THE HORDE, BECOMING A BAT HIMSELF.

HIS MIST-FORM ALLOWS HIS DEPARTURE... HIS BAT-FORM AFFIRMS HIS DIRECTION.

THE OTHERS SEE HIS SLEEK, BLACK FORM-- THERE HE IS, ONE VAMPIRE-BAT SHOUTS, ATTACK HIM!

THE RUMBLING EBONY CLOUD SWEEPS THROUGH THE DARKNESS IN PURSUIT.

LORD, THEY'RE ACTING UP AGAIN!

WILL WE NEVER BE FREE OF THOSE DEATH-DEVILS?

WILL OUR PEOPLE NEVER FIND PEACE?

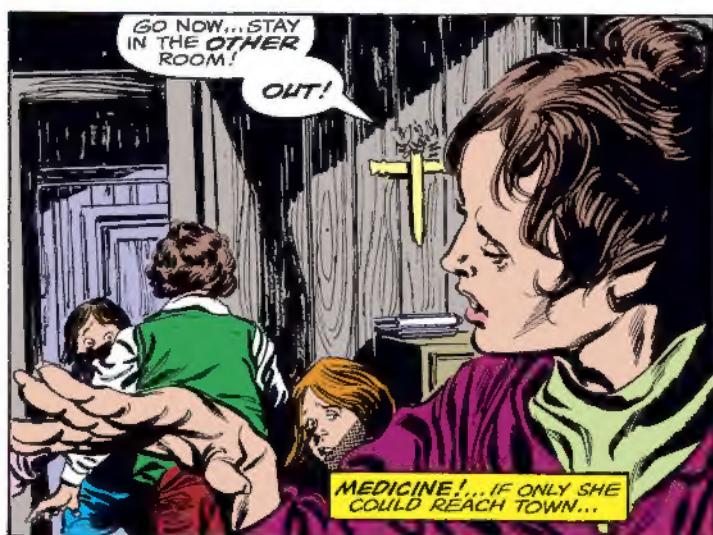
YET ANGLUS KNOWS BETTER...THE VAMPIRES HAVE COMMANDED THIS VILLAGE FOR HALF A MILLENIUM...
THESE PEOPLE WILL NEVER BE FREE FROM THEIR CURSE.



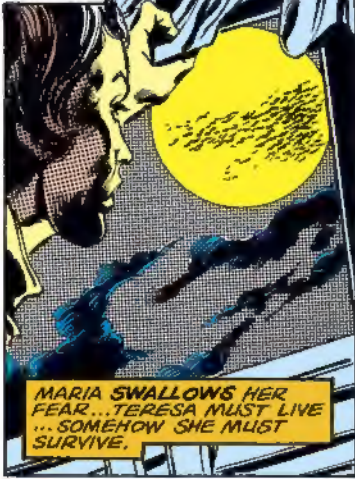
OUTSIDE THE TOWNSHIP, NOT FAR IN THE
DISTANCE, THE FARM BELONGING TO MARIA
TURAKA LIES QUIET IN DESPERATION...



INSIDE, THE YOUNG WIDOWED MOTHER SITS BY
HER CHILD'S BED, HER WARM FINGERS SENSING
THE FEVER IN THE YOUNG GIRL'S BROW...

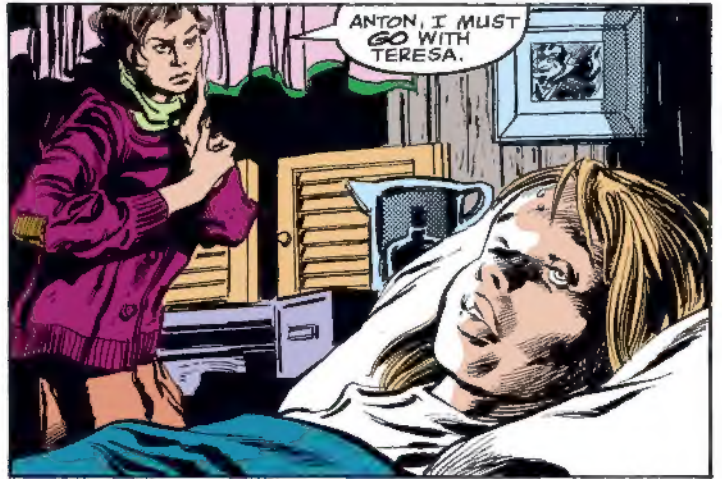


BUT THEY ARE OUT TONIGHT...
AND TOWN IS MUCH TOO FAR
AWAY...



MARIA SWALLOWS HER
FEAR...TERESA MUST LIVE
...SOMEHOW SHE MUST
SURVIVE.

HER MIND NOW SET, MARIA TURAKA WHISPERS A PRAYER TO HER
GOD, "LET NOTHING HARM MY CHILDREN OR ME. LET US ALL LIVE
TO WORSHIP YOU WHEN DAWN SPREADS THROUGH THE HEAVENS."



ANTON, I MUST
GO WITH
TERESA.



YOU
ARE IN
CHARGE,
MY
SON.



TAKE THESE AND WEAR
THEM TIGHTLY TO YOUR
HEART-- AND NEVER
TAKE THEM OFF.

Y-YES,
MOMMA.

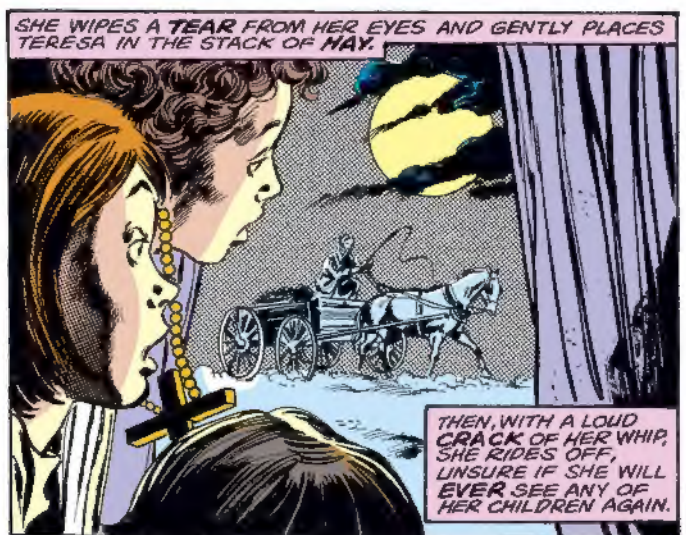


AND REMEMBER, ANTON-- DO
NOT OPEN THE DOOR FOR
ANYONE-- DO NOT LET ANY
STRANGERS INSIDE--



-- NOT UNTIL
THE SUN IS
HIGH.

GOODBYE,
MY LOVES--
WE WILL
RETURN
TOMORROW.
RECITE A
PRAYER FOR
ME, EH?



SHE WIPES A TEAR FROM HER EYES AND GENTLY PLACES
TERESA IN THE STACK OF HAY.

THEN, WITH A LOUD
CRACK OF HER WHIP,
SHE RIDES OFF,
UNSURE IF SHE WILL
EVER SEE ANY OF
HER CHILDREN AGAIN.

THEY'RE AFTER HIM NOW, THESE HELL-SPAWNED DEMONS, AND DRACULA CURSES THEIR BIRTH AND DEATH AND RE-BIRTH!

HAVE THEY NO LOYALTY? HE SCREAMS. HE KNOWS THE ANSWER EVEN BEFORE THE QUESTION IS ASKED.

THOUGH HE HAD BEEN THEIR LORD AND MASTER FOR FIVE HUNDRED YEARS -- WHEN HIS VAMPIRE POWERS WERE STOLEN FROM HIM BY THE ARCH-DEMON SATAN--

--NOW THESE DEMONS OBEY ANOTHER LORD... ONE WHO DRACULA MUST MEET... AND EVENTUALLY DESTROY!

IN TOWN, WINDOWS ARE QUICKLY BOARDED UP, CROSSES HASTILY PAINTED ON THE WOODEN SHUTTERS--

--PRAYERS TO GOD FERVENTLY SPOKEN.

DRACULA KNIFES THROUGH AN OPEN STABLE, HIS PURSUERS CLOSELY BEHIND--

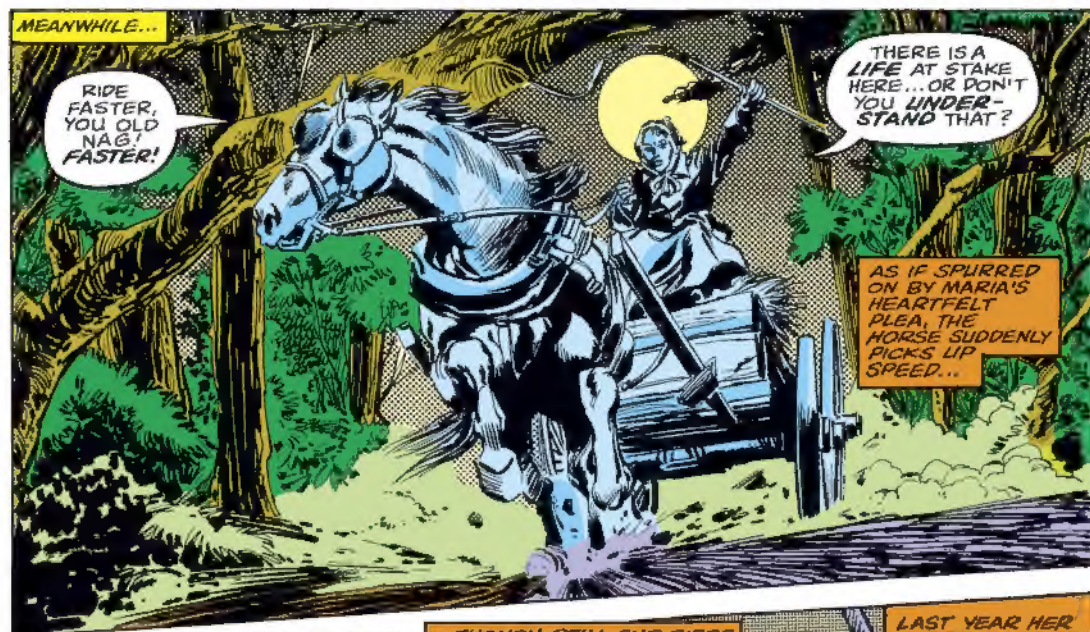
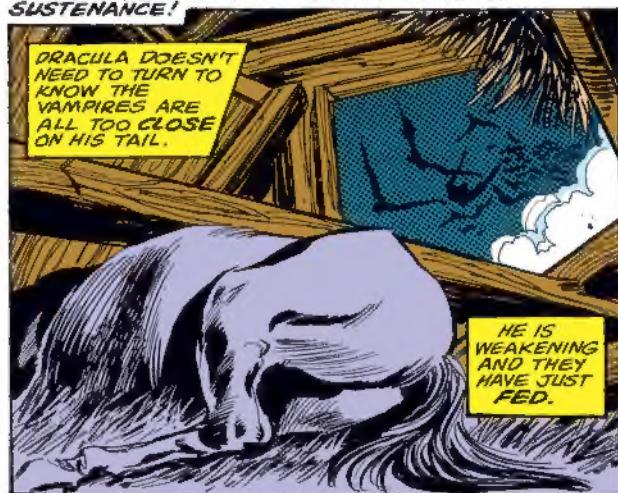
WEEEEEEEE

--BY THE TIME HE LEAVES THROUGH ANOTHER WINDOW, THE HORSES ARE DEAD...

CRRRAACK

...THEIR BLOOD DRAINED BY HIS ATTACKERS. THEY NEED ALL THE STRENGTH THEY CAN MUSTER.

SUCH IS THE WAY OF THE UNDEAD... TO THEM, LIFE HAS NO OTHER MEANING THAN TO PROVIDE **THEIR** SUSTENANCE!



THE STORM BEGINS NOW, AND DRACULA WONDERS... IS THIS A NATURAL ONE OR HAS THE NEW VAMPIRE LORD ORDERED IT?

DRACULA HAS NO ANSWER, BUT HE FLIES ON...

...CONCERNED FOR HIS LIFE, YET WONDERING ABOUT DOMINI, HIS WIFE.

HOW IS SHE? WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HER?

HE BLOCKS THE THOUGHT FROM HIS MIND AS HE SEES A WAGON BELOW HIM -- BLOOD! FOOD! STRENGTH!

HIS DARK TONGUE LICKING HIS FANGS, HE DIVES TOWARD MARIA TURAKA'S SPEEDING WAGON...

GOD IN HEAVEN-- THEY HAVE FOUND ME!

WEEEEEEEEE

TERESA, COME TO ME... WE MUST BE CLOSE!

WITH ALL HER STRENGTH, MARIA HOLDS THE TALISMAN BEFORE HER... AND EVEN IN THE EBON BLACKNESS OF NIGHT--

--IT EERILY GLOWS!

SAVE US, MY GOD IN HEAVEN-- PLEASE SAVE US BOTH!

DAMN! DAMN! THAT ACCURSED CRUCIFIX! IT IS THE ONE POWER I AM HELPLESS AGAINST!

HUNGER GNAWING AT HIM, DRACULA STILL ARCS AWAY FROM THE WAGON...

...AND RELIEF SPREADS ACROSS THE FRIGHTENED WOMAN'S FACE...

L-LORD, YOU ANSWERED OUR PRAYERS... THANK YOU, GOD... THANK YOU!

THEN, WITHOUT PAUSE, SHE TURNS BACK TOWARD HER HORSE AND AGAIN SPURS HIM ON...

HE IS WEAKER THAN HE HAS BEEN FOR DAYS, BUT STILL, DRACULA PUSHES ON. TO HALT NOW WOULD MEAN INSTANT DEATH!

NOT A WARRIOR'S DEATH!
NOT A DEATH MEANT
FOR ROYALTY-- BUT A
DEATH THAT WOULD
SIGNIFY HIS FALL FROM
POWER...

WHAT IS
THIS--? A
COTTAGE?

SANCTUARY?

DRACULA WOULD DIE A PEASANT'S
DEATH... AND THAT IS MORE THAN
THE PROUD VAMPIRE COULD BEAR.

I MUST
GAIN
ENTRANCE
--NOW!

HIS FIST FRANTICALLY POUNDS
THE DOOR-- HE MUST ENTER...
YET HE FEELS HIS IMPOTENCE
NOW.

THE CURSE OF THE
VAMPIRE STATES
HE CAN NOT ENTER
ANY PRIVATE
HOME WITHOUT
INVITATION!

LET ME
IN! OPEN
THIS DOOR!

WRAP

NO, KIRRY-- REMEMBER
WHAT MOMMA SAID?

BUT,
ANTON--?

MOMMA
SAID NO!
I SAY NO!

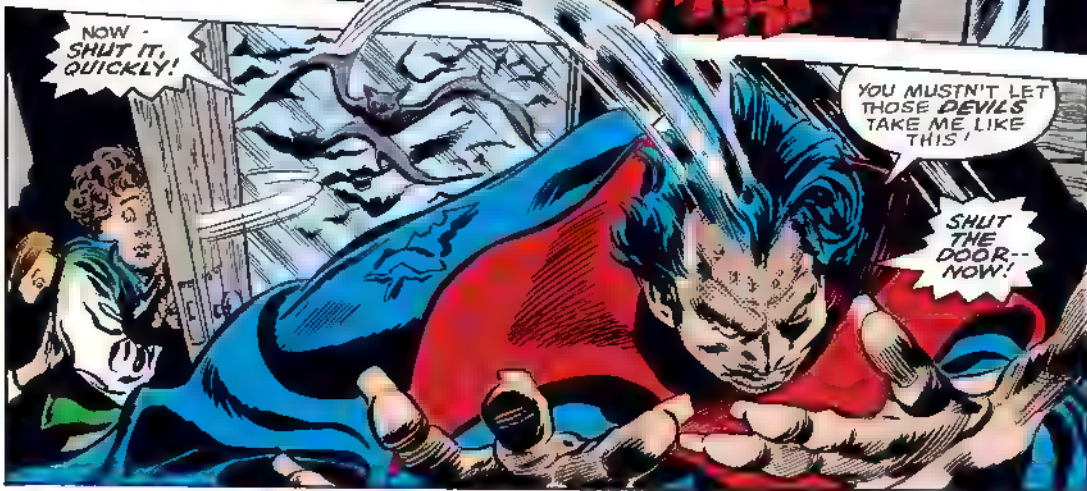
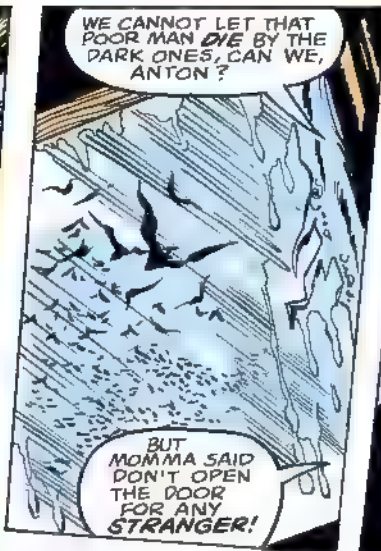
OPEN THIS DOOR,
BLAST YOU! I
WILL BE KILLED!

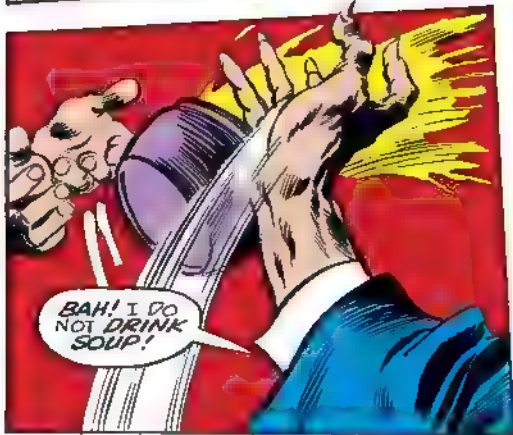
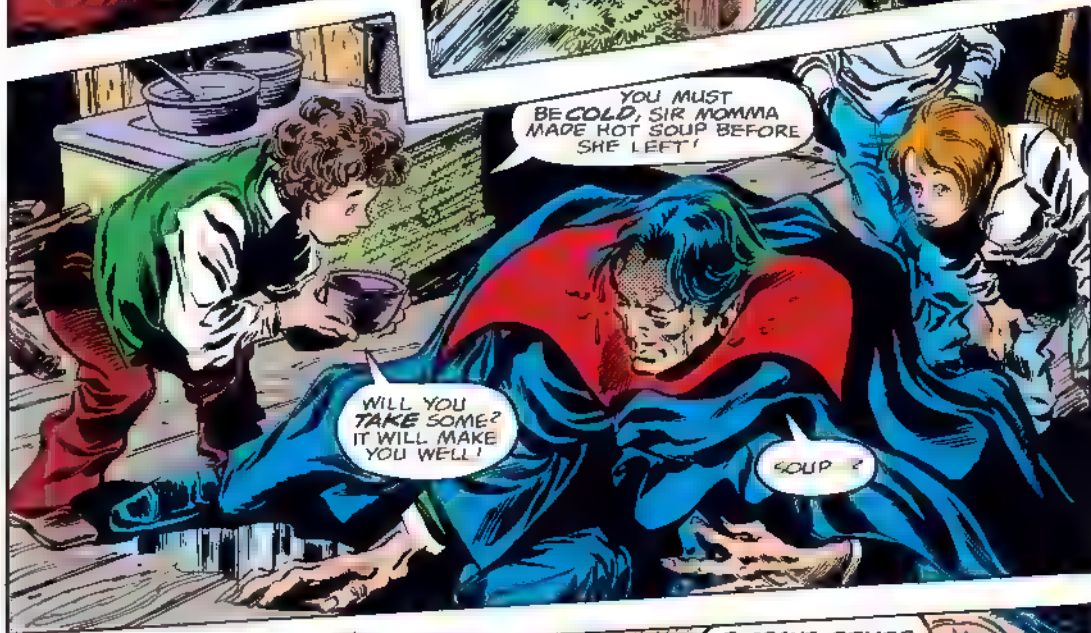
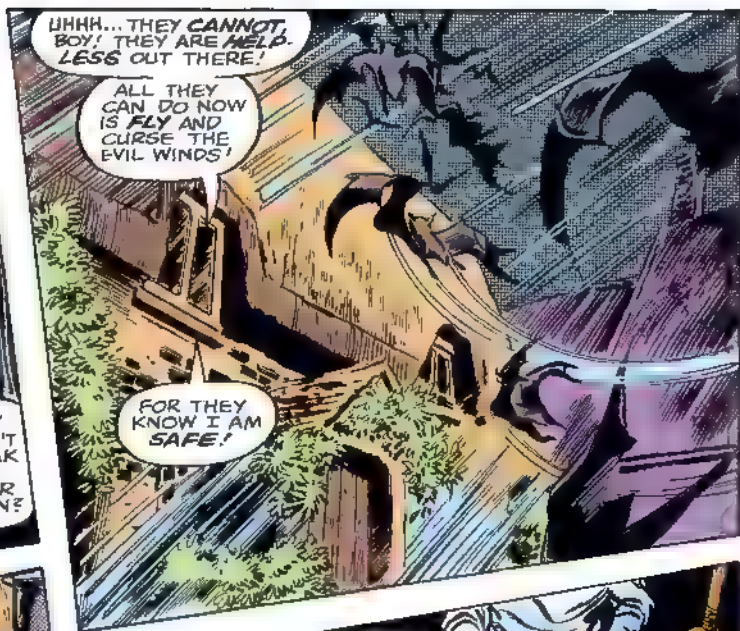
BY ALL
THE GODS IN
HEAVEN-- OPEN
THIS DOOR!

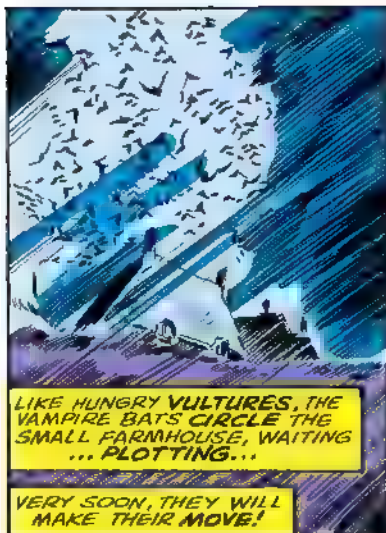
WRAP
WRAP

LOOK, IT IS A MAN! HE
SEEMS FRIGHTENED!

GOD!
LET ME
ENTER!

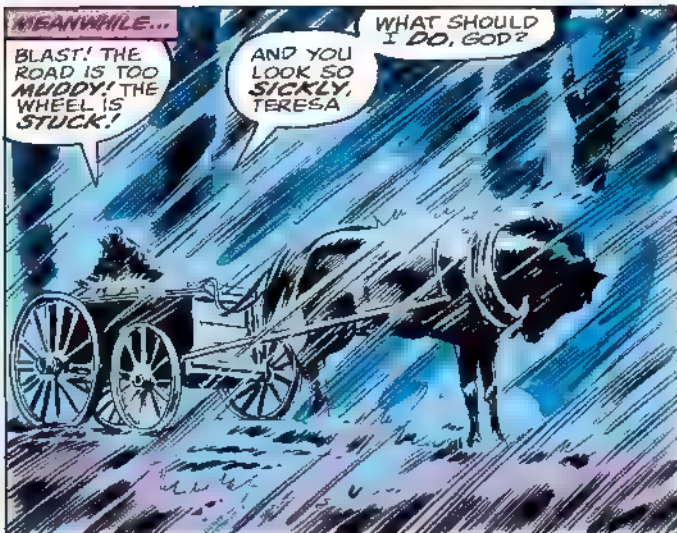






LIKE HUNGRY VULTURES, THE VAMPIRE BATS CIRCLE THE SMALL FARMHOUSE, WAITING ... PLOTTING...

VERY SOON, THEY WILL MAKE THEIR MOVE!



MEANWHILE...

BLAST! THE ROAD IS TOO MUDDY! THE WHEEL IS STUCK!

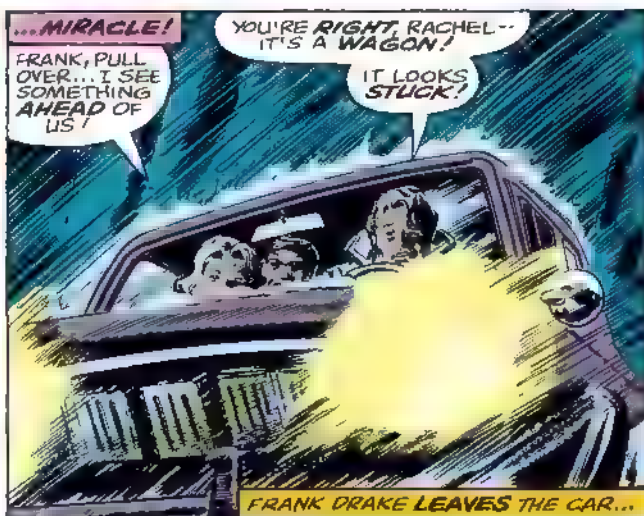
AND YOU LOOK SO SICKLY, TERESA

WHAT SHOULD I DO, GOD?



HAVE YOU ABANDONED ME AFTER SO MANY LOYAL YEARS?

MARIA HOLDS TERESA CLOSE TO HER BOSOM, WAITING FOR A...



...MIRACLE!
FRANK, PULL OVER... I SEE SOMETHING AHEAD OF US!

YOU'RE RIGHT, RACHEL-- IT'S A WAGON!

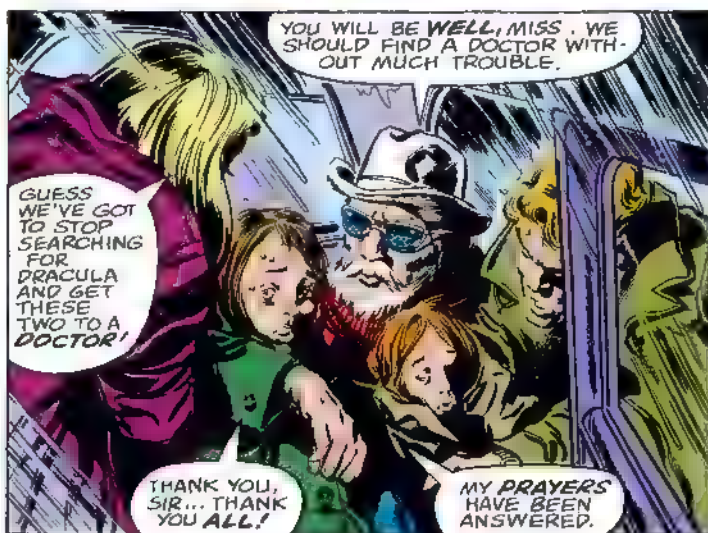
IT LOOKS STUCK!

FRANK DRAKE LEAVES THE CAR...



...ONLY TO RETURN A MOMENT LATER, CARRYING A COLD, TREMBLING BUNDLE.

QUINCY, IT'S A MOTHER AND HER DAUGHTER-- THE GIRL LOOKS BAD!



YOU WILL BE WELL, MISS. WE SHOULD FIND A DOCTOR WITHOUT MUCH TROUBLE.

GUESS WE'VE GOT TO STOP SEARCHING FOR DRACULA AND GET THESE TWO TO A DOCTOR!

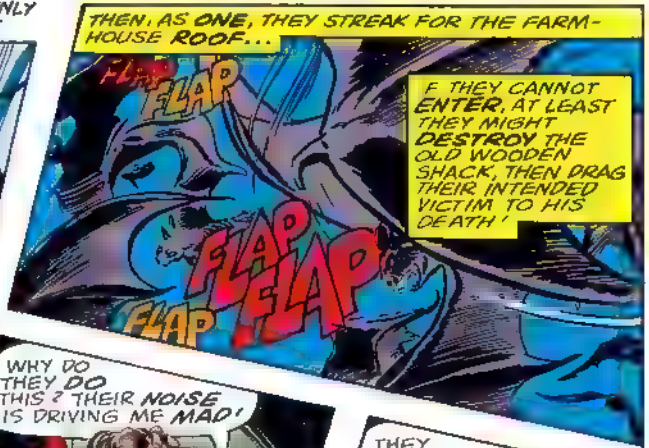
THANK YOU, SIR... THANK YOU ALL!

MY PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED.

AT THE FARMHOUSE, THE BATS SUDDENLY
BREAK FORMATION- THEIR WAITING
TIME IS OVER



THEN, AS ONE, THEY STREAK FOR THE FARM-
HOUSE ROOF...



IF THEY CANNOT
ENTER, AT LEAST
THEY MIGHT
DESTROY THE
OLD WOODEN
SHACK, THEN DRAG
THEIR INTENDED
VICTIM TO HIS
DEATH!

WHY DO
THEY DO
THIS? THEIR NOISE
IS DRIVING ME MAD!



THEY
WANT ME,
CHILD. THEY WANT
TO SLAY ME!



AS DRACULA MOVES CLOSER TO
THE CHILD, HIS MOUTH WATERS.
BUT, FOR SOME REASON HE
PAUSES. DAMN, HE CURSES. HE
NEVER HAD DOUBTS BEFORE
HIS MEETING WITH
SATAN. WHY NOW?



WHAT? YOU
WEAR THE
CRUCIFIX? I--I
DID NOT SEE
THAT BEFORE!

MOMMA
GAVE THIS TO
ME... TO
PROTECT US
FROM THE
DARK
ONES!

DON'T
WORRY, SIR...
WITH IT I'LL
PROTECT YOU,
TOO!



I DON'T
LIKE THEM
POUNDING ON THE ROOF,
ANTON! I'M GOING TO
TELL THEM TO STOP!



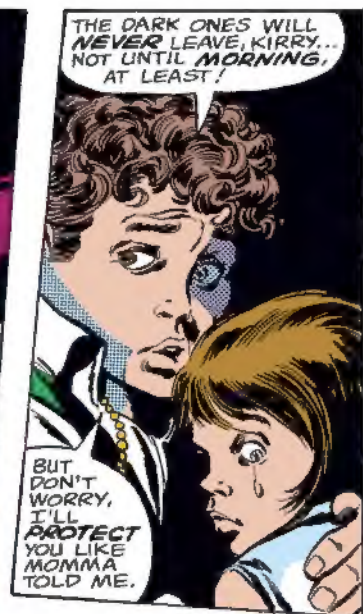
No!



MOMMA SAID **DON'T OPEN THE DOOR**, KIRRY-- I WON'T **LET YOU!**

BUT ALL THAT **NOISE!**

PLEASE, ANTON, LET ME TELL THEM TO **GO AWAY!**



THE DARK ONES WILL **NEVER** LEAVE, KIRRY... NOT UNTIL **MORNING**, AT LEAST!

BUT DON'T WORRY, I'LL **PROTECT** YOU LIKE MOMMA TOLD ME.



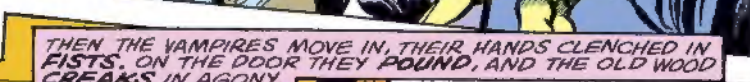
HUH? THEY **STOPPED**. I DON'T **HEAR** THEM ANYMORE.

MAYBE THEY WENT **AWAY!**

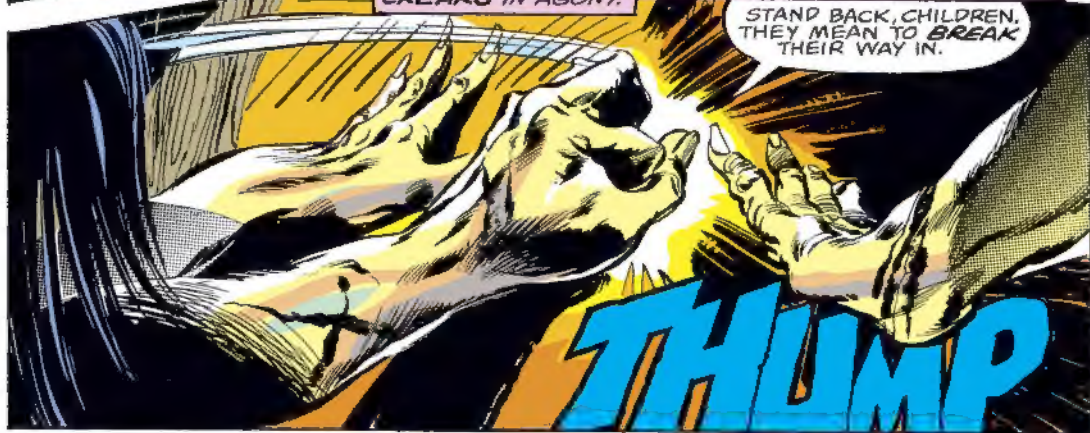


N-NO... **LOOK!** THEY'RE STILL THERE...

THEY LOOK SO **EVIL!** KIRRY! I'M **AFRAID!**



THEN THE VAMPIRES MOVE IN, THEIR HANDS CLENCHED IN **FISTS**. ON THE DOOR THEY **POUND**, AND THE OLD WOOD **CREAKS** IN AGONY.



STAND BACK, CHILDREN. THEY MEAN TO **BREAK** THEIR WAY IN.

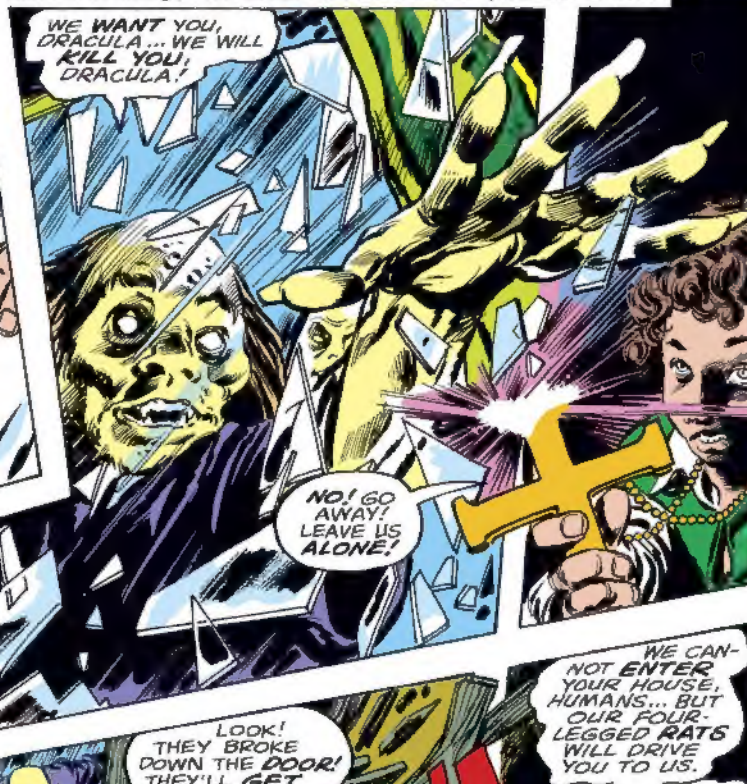
THUMP



HUH? I THOUGHT YOU SAID THEY COULDN'T COME IN.

MAKE THEM GO AWAY, ANTON... I'M SCARED!

BUT THEN, GLASS IS SUDDENLY SHATTERED, AND OLD YELLOWED HANDS THRUST THROUGH THE SHARDED WINDOW SILL...



WE WANT YOU, DRACULA... WE WILL KILL YOU, DRACULA!

NO! GO AWAY! LEAVE US ALONE!



CURSE YOU, CHILD! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!!

MY FACE BURNS WITH THE TOUCH OF THAT CRUCIFIX!



LOOK! THEY BROKE DOWN THE DOOR! THEY'LL GET US NOW!

ANTON... WHAT DO WE DO, ANTON?

STAND ASIDE, CHILDREN ... IT'S ME THEY WANT.

I WILL GO TO THEM!



WE CAN NOT ENTER YOUR HOUSE, HUMANS... BUT OUR FOUR-LEGGED RATS WILL DRIVE YOU TO US.

THEN WE WILL SLAY THE ONE WE CAME FOR--

AND DERIVE NOURISHMENT FROM YOU!

VAMPIRES MAY CONTROL THE WORLD'S VERMIN, SO ONCE WROTE ABRAHAM VAN HELSING...

NOW THEY ORDER THE VERMIN TO ATTACK...

DOZENS OF HUNGRY RATS STREAM INTO THE SMALL HOME... THEY SCURRY OVER WOOD AND FLESH...

OFF ME, YOU DAMNABLE CREATURES! OFF!

IT IS NO USE... I CANNOT CONTROL THEM--

"--THOSE OTHERS OVERWHELM MY OWN POWER!"

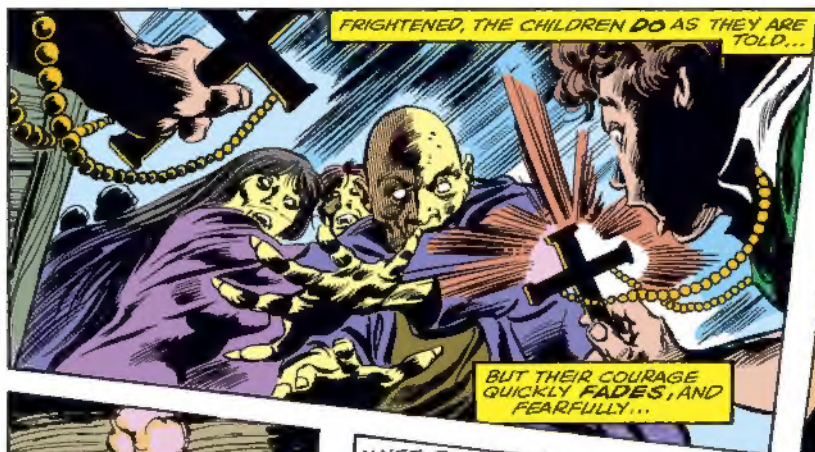
THE DEAD ONES LAUGH, AND THE LAUGH IS AS COLD AS THEIR RAIN-SOAKED FLESH!

KIRRY! RUN OUTSIDE... THEY WON'T CHASE US THERE!

NO, YOU FOOLS! YOU'LL FALL INTO THOSE DAMNED ONE'S HANDS!

DO WHAT I SAY --OR YOU WILL BE SLAIN!

USE YOUR CRUCIFIXES! SAVE YOURSELVES! BELIEVE IN YOUR GOD--HE IS YOUR ONLY SALVATION NOW!



FRIGHTENED, THE CHILDREN DO AS THEY ARE TOLD...

BUT THEIR COURAGE QUICKLY FADES, AND FEARFULLY...



...THEY FALL BACK AND DOWN TO THE FLOOR, CRYING!

IT IS NO USE... WE WILL ALL DIE, UNLESS...



AGGHHH!!!
DAMNATION!
MY VERY FLESH BURNS...



Y-YET I MUST NOT DROP THIS TOTEM!

I MUST MOVE EVER FORWARD... EVER ON!

HIS HAND IS AFLAME, HIS SOUL SCREAMS IN AGONY, YET THE VAMPIRE TURNS TO HIS FOES...



GET OUT, ALL OF YOU-- OR, SO HELP ME-- YOU SHALL PERISH!

IN FEAR, THE OTHERS FLEE-- WHAT CHOICE IS THERE? IF THEY ARE TOUCHED BY THE CRUCIFIX, SURELY THEY SHALL ALL DIE!



AS THEY TAKE TO THE SKY, DRACULA FOLLOWS THEM... THIS TIME CHASING THE DARK ONES!

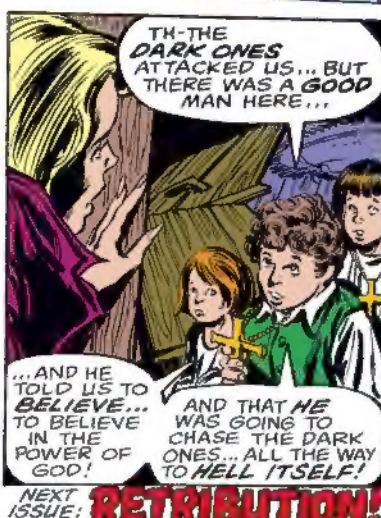
THE SKY IS CLEAR NOW, THE RAIN HAS ENDED FOR AWHILE, AT LEAST, AND THE ONLY SOUND THAT CAN BE HEARD IS A CAR'S GRUMBLING ENGINE...



RACHEL VAN HELSING IS WORRIED SHE AGREED TO FIND MARIA'S CHILDREN AND TELL THEM TERESA WILL SOON BE WELL, BUT WILL SHE FIND THEM STILL ALIVE?

GOOD LORD, LOOK! THIS PLACE IS ALL TORN APART!

OH, THANK HEAVEN... WH-WHAT HAPPENED HERE?



TH-THE DARK ONES ATTACKED US... BUT THERE WAS A GOOD MAN HERE...

...AND HE TOLD US TO BELIEVE... TO BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF GOD!

AND THAT HE WAS GOING TO CHASE THE DARK ONES... ALL THE WAY TO HELL ITSELF!

NEXT ISSUE: **RETRIBUTION!**